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BOROUGH



OF MOSSLEY.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer's Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND MARKET COMMITTEE

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1925.

I. Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres, 3,624. Population Census, 1921, 12,705. Estimated 1925, 12,470.

The town is situated in a valley with houses on both sides. The subsoil is mostly clay on the Cheshire side, with rock and gravel on the Lancashire side. A small river runs through the valley. The atmosphere is generally moist.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 3,247, and approximately 300 houses were inhabited by more than one family. The rateable value is £75,472 and the sum represented by a penny rate, £275.

The population is mostly of the working classes and shopkeepers, the former occupied in cotton spinning and weaving, woollen weaving, wire rope manufacturing, and small iron foundries. There is no particular deleterious influence on the public health from any of these occupations.

2. Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1925	162	68	94
Deaths „ „	152	76	76

RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

	Birth	Death	Death Rate of	Rate of deaths
	Rate.	Rate.	Tuberculosis	under 1 year
			of Respiratory	to 1,000
			System.	Births.
Mean of 10 years (1915-24) ...	16'9	14'7	0'87	80'2
1924	13'9	12'5	0'71	73
1925	12'9	12'1	0'72	37
Increase or Decrease in				
1925 on 10 years average...	-4	-2'6	-0'15	-43'2
Previous year	-1'0	-0'4	+0'01	-36
Average for 157 smaller				
towns in England & Wales ..	18'3	11'2	...	74

It will be noticed that there is a large decrease in the infant mortality for 1925.

The amount of Poor Law relief paid was £2472 2s. 3d.

Eighty-three patients from Mossley were admitted to the Union Lake Hospital and Darn-ton House, and 179 patients to the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne. The number of out-patients treated at the latter is not known. The Sick Nursing Association's nurse was fully occupied during the whole year. Bronchitis, measles, and whooping cough were prevalent in the last quarter of the year, but there were no conditions of occupation or environment which appeared to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

3. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospital accommodation is available for small-pox at the Ashton-under-Lyne Joint Hospital situated at Hartshead, for which a retaining fee of £20 per annum is paid, but there is no accommoda-tion for the treatment of other infectious diseases. These are isolated and treated in their own homes.

There is no Hospital Accommodation in the town for Tuberculosis, Maternity cases or child-ren. The District Infirmary and the Union Hospital are both at Ashton-under-Lyne.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or nameless children.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which is open every Wednesday at 3 p.m., a School Clinic and a Tuberculosis Dispensary, but no Day Nursery, and the Venereal Disease Centre is at the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne.

There are two motor ambulances, one for infectious cases, and one for accidents, etc., both are kept at the Fire Station and the service is good.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health, John Healey, M.B., Ch.B., part-time officer, salary £145, is also Certifying Factory Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspector, Ernest Slater, part-time officer, salary £200, is also Surveyor, Inspector under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts, and Meat Inspector.

One Assistant Sanitary Inspector, B. Castle, part-time officer, also assistant to Surveyor. Salary for both offices, £125.

One Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse, full-time officer, Mrs. Aspinall, C.M.B. Salary £120.

There are no arrangements in the district for General Nursing or for Infectious Diseases.

There is a district Sick Nursing Association supported by public subscriptions and one nurse is employed full time. No arrangement exists with this Association in respect of Child Welfare work, nor does it undertake Child Welfare work. The Association does not undertake midwifery cases or

Monthly Nursing. No midwife is employed or assisted by the Local Authority, but there are four on the County Council Register and the number is sufficient.

No chemical work was carried on in the town during this period.

Local Acts :— Mossley Improvement Act, operative from 1885.

Local Orders :—Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshop Orders from 1st November, 1899.

General Adoptive Acts :—Part 8, Public Health Amendment Act, operative from 1907.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act from 1889.

Public Health Amendment Act from 1890.

Private Street Works Act from 1892.

Bye-laws relating to Public Health.

Bye-laws relating to Nuisances.

„	„	„ Bakehouses.
„	„	„ Slaughter-houses.
„	„	„ Markets.
„	„	„ Offensive Trades.

All are administered.

There is no co-operation with the medical or ancillary services of the National Health Insurance.

Arrangements have been made with the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne. for the treatment of cases of difficult parturition and tonsils and adenoids in school children.

None with the Poor Law or other agencies.

4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The water supply is derived from moorland sources, Swineshaw and Yeoman Hey Reservoirs, the quality is good and the supply constant. Most of the dwelling-houses are supplied directly, none by stand pipe, but a few on the tops of the hills use spring water. There is no possibilities of contamination of the main supply, it is treated at the reservoirs to counteract its plumbo-solvent action. There have been no cases of lead poisoning due to water in the area for many years. The supply is sufficient for the area, and there have been no new extensions during the year.

No action has been taken with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage disposal works is situated at Black Rock where sewage is treated in septic tanks and filters. The character of the drainage is a combined one and there has been no new developments during the year. There are no areas without a proper drainage system. The smoke and water tests are applied to all new drains and to any others suspected of being defective.

Closet accomodation at end of 1925. There are only two privy middens with closets attached, situated in outlying parts.

There are 2847 pail closets ; 682 dry ashpits ; 388 fresh water closets ; 454 movable ashbins for refuse ; 148 waste water closets.

During the year five pail closets have been converted into fresh water W.C.'s, and 42 during the last five years. At 30 houses movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles, and 57 during the last five years. Whenever the landlords were desirous of converting pail closets to W.C.'s permission has been given, and in all new property fresh water W.C.'s are provided.

SCAVENGING.

Refuse is collected weekly from all houses and trade refuse twice weekly by the Sanitary Authority. Motor vehicles have been tried, but did not prove satisfactory. The two privy middens are emptied by day and the excreta used for manuring the land. House refuse, which is dry, is disposed of on tips. Excreta are mixed with an absorbent substance and disposed of as manure. There is no destructor.

During the year 150 sanitary inspections of premises were made, 92 defects or nuisances discovered and 81 abated. 71 informal notices were served, but no statutory ones, and no legal proceedings have been taken. There has been no special action taken with regard to smoke abatement. Two observations were taken, but no legal proceedings. The time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke is 10 minutes per hour.

Of offensive trades there are three tripe-boiling places which are regularly inspected and are kept in good order. The condition of workshops and workplaces is fair

There are two common lodging-houses which are registered and both are in fair condition.

No action has been taken or needed in the case of houses let in lodgings. The sanitary condition and water supply of all the schools is good. There are no canal boats.

5. Housing.

General housing conditions of the area are fair, but there is still a shortage, which is being gradually overcome as new houses are available. There is a Municipal Housing Scheme in progress. No important changes in population have taken place during the period under review or anticipated.

There is no great extent of overcrowding, but what there is, is due to the shortage of houses with more than two bedrooms. All the new houses are being built with three bedrooms. No action was taken during the year.

The houses are of the old type, two rooms up and two down, mostly without baths. The character of the defects found in unfit houses was defective roofs, chimneys, waste pipes, etc., and in some cases dampness. The defects are mostly due to the lack of proper management and supervision by the owners. The action taken as regards unfit houses was to serve informal notices followed, if necessary, with statutory ones. The difficulties found in remedying unfitness was mainly due to the high costs for work in connection with the Building and Allied Trades.

No special action has been taken to secure improved management by the owners or tenants and it has not been possible to take any action with regard to back-to-back houses owing to the house shortage.

Conditions affecting houses as regards water supply and closet accommodation is good and refuse is collected weekly.

No complaints have been received or action taken in regard to unhealthy areas.

The bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, etc., work moderately well. The revision of existing bye-laws is pending.

No action has been taken by the Local Authority in connection with inprovision as to the proper use of household fittings. Instructions have been given to householders to burn as much household refuse as possible.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Twenty-one new houses have been erected, 16 by the Local Authority with State assistance under the Housing Acts, but none by other bodies.

Eighteen houses are in course of erection under the Council building scheme.

No financial assistance for purpose of increasing housing accommodation has been made during 1925 either by loans or subsidy.

Seventy-two houses were inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts), 45 were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.

None were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

Forty-five houses were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

Forty were remedied in consequence of informal notices, but no action was taken under Statutory Powers.

6. Inspection and Suspection of Food.

Under the Food and Drugs Acts, 42 samples were taken by taken by the representative of the County Council, no proceedings were taken as all samples analysed were found to be genuine.

All samples of milk (18) were found on analysis to be good.

The milk is mostly distributed by the farmers, and the quantity is adequate.

There have been no applications for registration of graded milk.

No licenses have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, and no refusals.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops were periodically inspected and were found in very fair condition. Regulations were made under the Order of the L.G.B. September 14th, 1899, and have been operative since November 1st, 1899, and enforced.

Cows are not habitually grazed in this district. An air space of 800 cubic feet in new cowsheds, and 600 cubic feet in the old ones has been required and allowed.

There are 33 cowkeepers, all on the register, 19 are resident in the area and 14 outside, and there are three milk purveyors all on the register.

There are no arrangements for regular veterinary inspection of dairy cows, but the surgeon is called in all doubtful cases. No action has been taken as to tuberculous milk or cattle. No bacteriological examinations were made during 1925.

Meat inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who holds a Meat Inspector's Certificate and the Veterinary Surgeon is called in when necessary. Part III of Meat Regulations were not put into operation. Condemned meat is disposed of either by burial in quick lime or burning in boiler furnaces.


Stalls, shops, stores and vehicles are inspected at intervals. There are no public slaughterhouses.

Private slaughterhouses : —

	in 1920	in January 1925	in December 1925
No. registered	3	4	4
No. licensed	3	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total...	6	5	6

There are 28 bakehouses in good condition.

Approximately eight cwts. of food were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption. One whole tuberculous carcase and organs of a cow were surrendered, but no other diseased, unsound, unwholesome meat or other foodstuffs. No legal proceedings were taken. No cases of food poisoning occurred. The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts etc., are administered by the County Council.



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7. Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Disease.

Scarlet fever was more prevalent in 1923 than in any year during the last five when +2 cases occurred, in the other years only half the number were reported. All were of a mild type. In 1922-23-24-25 other diseases, viz.: measles, mumps, chicken-pox and whooping cough were notified which increased the total number of infectious diseases notified. At the end of 1924 and the beginning of 1925, chicken-pox was made notifiable, owing to the prevalence of small-pox in the neighbouring towns but no cases of the latter disease occurred in the area.

In 1920 there were 11 cases of diphtheria, but since then the number has greatly decreased. Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied by the Authority and was used in all cases. It is kept at the Medical Officer's house.

There were no cases of Encephalitis Lethargica reported and no return cases of Scarlet fever were discovered.

Pneumonia has not been very prevalent, there being only seven deaths during 1925.

There were a few cases of Malaria, contracted during army life. No Dysentery or Trench Fever.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made, when necessary, at Manchester University. None were made during the year.

All infectious cases were isolated and treated in their own homes.

No use has been made of Schick or Dick tests in Diphtheria or Scarlet fever.

No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the Authority.

The Infant Department of Roughtown School was closed from November 23rd, 1925, to the December holidays on account of Measles.

There were no special reports during the year, and no special inquiries undertaken in connection with Influenza or Cancer.

The number of houses disinfected during the year was 44. These were sprayed with carbolic fluid and afterwards thoroughly cleaned by the tenants. All houses are disinfected after Phthisis, but not after measles. Clothing, bedding, etc., of which there were 211 articles, were removed in covered van, and disinfected in a high pressure steam disinfector, which is situated at the Corporation Depot, Scout. There is no arrangement for bathing verminous persons.

8. Notifiable Diseases during the year 1925.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED														HOSPITAL		
Notifiable Diseases	cases at all ages	years												Deaths in		Total Deaths
		under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total cases Hospital	from district	
Diphtheria	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Small-pox	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	24	...	...	...	4	2	8	6	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	0
Pneumonia	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	7
Puerperal fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	1	...	...	9
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chicken-pox	28	2	3	2	2	3	9	5	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	74	4	3	2	8	5	21	11	3	7	1	7	2	3	1	21

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1925.

Age Periods years	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
under 1								
0-1								
1-5								
5-10				3				1
10-15								
15-20								
20-25								
25-35		1			1			
35-45								
45-55	2	2			3	1		1
55-65		2			1	2		
65 & upwards	1				1			
	3	5	0	3	6	3	0	2
Totals	8		3		9		2	

All the cases were notified, and no action for wilful neglect or refusal to notify was necessary.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district, and no action has been taken relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

No action has been taken under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

9. Maternity and Child Welfare.

The general arrangements include the provision of a Welfare Centre with its Voluntary Staff, a part-time Medical Officer and a full-time Health Visitor.

A shortage of voluntary workers still hampers the work of the Centre. An increase in number would enable its benefits to be considerably extended. The average attendance of mothers and children has been satisfactory, although the figures are somewhat less than previously, owing to the prevalence of epidemics in the town. It is still to be regretted that children of the "toddler" age attend less frequently than younger infants, as it is after weaning that instruction in dietetic matters is all important. Under the Milk (Mothers and Children Order, 1919) a number of children have been supplied with fresh milk. None has been furnished at part cost and no dried milk as been distributed. It has not been found necessary to supply any food to mothers. The arrangements for the supply of milk and food are in the hands of the Staff, who deal with each application on its merits on a report by the Health Visitor after full investigation of the home conditions. The use of bottled sterilized milk is making some headway in the town and is now supplied at the same price as fresh milk.

There are no Treatment Centres, Maternity Homes, Hospitals or other Institutions for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers and young children as in-patients.

The Health Visitor makes full investigation into all causes of maternal deaths, infant deaths and still births, of which there were respectively one, seven and seven registered. Her work is facilitated by the smooth operation of the Notification of Births Act. Though the infantile death rate was low, 37 per 1,000 births, there has been a considerable amount of sickness among children which in some cases may be attributed to lack of house space.

The ante-natal work makes slow but steady progress and while there is no formal connection with the midwifery service, the midwives of the district are in close touch with the Centre and often attend the weekly sessions.

There are no methods of dealing with unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, or of children permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their own parents.

Orthopædic cases are referred to the District Infirmary or the Manchester Childrens Hospital.

There are no voluntary societies working in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

Up to the present there has been no direct co-ordination with the School Medical Service.

Full investigation was made into the three cases of Puerperal fever which occurred, but it was not possible to determine the origin of the disease in any of the cases.

As in former years a number of fees have been paid to midwives for their services in necessitous cases.

The following visits were paid by the Health Visitor during the year.

First visits	-	164
Visits up to one year	-	1313
„ from one to five years	-	2797
„ to expectant mothers	-	102
		<hr/>
		4376

Most of the Health Visitor's time is devoted to house visiting as the straggling nature of the district often prevents the attendance at the Centre of mothers living at a distance.

An almost absolute neglect of vaccination continues despite the fact that small-pox has been prevalent in the neighbourhood, there having been a minimum of vaccinations in Mossley during that period.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases.	Treated.		Result.	
Number notified.	At home.	In hospital.	Vision unimpaired.	Deaths.
2	2	0	2	0

The notable sanitary improvements during the year was the erection of houses and the further requirements are more houses.

JOHN HEALEY, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND MARKET COMMITTEE

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1925.

Drainage.

No public sewers have been constructed during the year, except in connection with the Municipal Housing Scheme at Fox Platt, details of which will be found under the appropriate heading. 17 yards of 4in., 40 yards of 6in., and 9 yards of 9in. pipes have been laid. 16 large Street Gullies and 5 Yard Gullies have been fixed. Drainage work has been carried out in many cases on behalf of private owners. All new drains are inspected, and where practicable, tested, before filling in.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

Seventy-two infected rooms and 211 articles of clothing and bedding have been disinfected. Rooms occupied by persons suffering from Tuberculosis are disinfected in cases where the patients are removed to Sanatoria, also when then the disease terminates fatally. Four rooms have been disinfected on account of their verminous condition. Householders frequently desire the disinfection of beds and bedding upon the fatal termination of an illness. In cases where the Doctor in attendance or the Medical Officer of Health considers that disinfection is advisable, the work is done free of charge. In other cases a charge is made towards the cost incurred. Disinfection of bedding, etc., is carried out at the Corporation Depot, Scout. The apparatus consists of an Alliot and Paton's Patent High Pressure Steam Disinfector. All day schools are sprayed with disinfectant once a week during term time. Householders are supplied with disinfectant for domestic use, free of charge, on application at the Town Hall. A man is in attendance on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and Saturday mornings. The distribution of disinfectant free of cost has to be strictly supervised, otherwise much waste and misuse occurs. Disinfectants should not be used as substitutes for soap, water, fresh air and sunlight. No serious epidemic of notifiable infectious disease has occurred during the year, and the total number of cases notified has again been low.

Scavenging and the disposal of Refuse.

This work is undertaken by the Corporation. There are 1136 ashpits within the Borough, 682 fixed and 454 portable. They are emptied weekly, the contents being carted to the tip on Corporation land at Scout. About 3200 loads per annum are thus disposed of, equivalent to about 60 tons per week on an average. Horse traction is used. Over 80% of domestic refuse is stored in fixed ashpits, many of which are in positions difficult of access thus necessitating filling and carrying to the vehicle some distance away, causing the process of loading to be slow where such conditions prevail. For the above, and other reasons, extensive practical tests with mechanical traction have hitherto proved the economic advantage of continuing with horses and carts. A general adoption of standard portable ash bins would doubtless expedite the collection of domestic refuse, be more sanitary, and most probably reduce the amount of paper, cardboard and other combustible refuse which has to be removed in increasing quantities as time passes. It is difficult, often impossible, to identify the culprit when an ashpit is misused, such ashpit being fixed and used in common by a number of tenants. If each tenant could have his own galvanised ash bin, and this is being encouraged by the Corporation keeping a stock of good, strong bins and supplying owners with same at cost price, I am of opinion that it would be advantageous to adopt mechanical haulage provided that a mobile machine suitable for the district be adopted.

There are 2847 pail closets, 388 fresh water flush closets, and 148 waste water closets. The pails are emptied once per week, cleaned, and disinfected. The solid and a proportion of the liquid contents are mixed with a suitable absorbent and disposed of as a fertilizer. Five pail closets have been converted to fresh water flush closets during the year.

Lodging Houses.

There are two Common Lodging Houses in the Borough. They are both very old buildings, and in one case repairs to spouts, windows, ceilings, roof and outside offices have been carried out. They are registered and kept in a satisfactory condition by the proprietors. Inspections are made at intervals.

Nuisances.

Seventy-One informal notices have been served. 81 nuisances have been abated. In addition many defects and nuisances have been attended to by owners without written notices. No Statutory notice has been served. Generally speaking, owners of property are maintaining their houses in a reasonable state of repair. During the year 6 notices, under Section 5 of the Factory and Workshops Act 1901, have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, relating to unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation. All the cases have been investigated and dealt with satisfactorily.

Slaughterhouses and Tripe-Boiling Works.

There are six slaughter-houses, four registered and two licensed, an increase of one during the year. There are three tripe-boiling establishments at present in use. All the above are periodically inspected and no serious complaint has been lodged against the owners or occupiers.

Meat Inspection.

The whole carcase, organs, etc., of a cow have been condemned and disposed of by burial in quick lime. The weight of the the carcase was approximately eight cwts., and, as it was voluntarily surrendered by the owner, no prosecution was instituted. The carcase was extensively affected with tuberculous lesions in both cavities.

Meat Regulations.

Prior to the Meat Regulations becoming operative on April 1st full particulars of same were given to all farmers, butchers, stallholders and other traders to whom they were applicable. The Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector were duly authorised by the Council to see that the Regulations are observed. Inspections have been made at intervals. special attention having been paid to stalls in the open Market Place. The traders have willingly adopted suggestions for protecting their meat from contamination by efficiently screening their stalls. No serious breach of the regulations has been detected.

Bakehouses.

There are 28 bakehouses in the Borough, all registered in accordance with the Factory and Workshop Acts. Most of these are on a small scale, the occupiers baking for their own retail trade. There are no underground bakehouses. The general condition of the bakehouses is good.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

There are 19 farms, 59 cowsheds and 19 cowkeepers within the Borough. 14 purveyors of milk from surrounding districts retail milk within the Borough. There are three milk shops. All

are registered. All farm premises are regularly inspected in order to ensure compliance with the Regulations made under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders. Notices to limewash are sent out in April and September. The condition of the cowsheds generally, is very fair. Breaches of the Regulations have occurred in a few cases, but have been rectified without necessitating service of Statutory notices. No license has been applied for under the Grading of Milk Order of 1923. Cow-keeping etc., has ceased in connection with one small farm during the present year.

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts.

The Tuberculosis Order of 1925 became operative on the 1st. September. The Statistical quarterly returns were marked "Nil" as no cases had been reported or detected. No outbreak of notifiable disease has occurred within the Borough of Mossley during the year. Foot and Mouth Disease has again been very prevalent in various parts of the country, especially during the latter quarter of the year. Numerous orders have been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, imposing restrictions and regulating the movement of cattle and swine in various areas. Mossley has on several occasions formed part of an Infected Area, all movements of cattle and swine having to be controlled by license. The perusal and digestion of the numerous orders, issue of licenses, interviews with farmers, cattle dealers and butchers, etc., and the inspection of cattle and swine to be moved under license has again taken up considerable time. I am pleased to be able to report, so far as my knowledge goes, no breach of the regulations or orders occurred, and everyone concerned with whom I came into contact were desirous of complying with the restrictions rendered necessary, although at times put to considerable inconvenience. Notices describing the symptoms of Anthrax and precautions to be taken in suspected cases, have been distributed to all farmers, butchers and cattle dealers in the district.

Sewage Works.

The effluent from your works, has, on a whole, been satisfactory. Inspections at frequent intervals have been made by the Rivers Board's Inspectors. Samples of effluent have been taken, which, upon analysis, have proved satisfactory. 1000 cubic yards of sludge, have been removed from the lagoons during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

Factories. Two timed observations have been made. Where the emission of black smoke has been deemed excessive warning letters have been sent. The emission of black smoke for over 10 minutes per hour is deemed an offence.

Domestic Chimneys.—The Police take proceedings against occupiers of houses for the firing of domestic chimneys. A small fine is generally imposed.

Housing and Town Planning.

No houses have have been closed during 1925. Five new houses have been built by private enterprise. Each contains a bath and w.c. None ranked for subsidy under the Housing Acts. Satisfactory progress have been made with the Municipal Housing Scheme which is being carried out by direct labour on the Fox Platt Farm Estate. 16 houses have been completed and are now tenanted. 18 houses are in course of erection. All the houses are of the A3 type, consisting of large living room, scullery, larder, store, three bedrooms, w.c. and separate bath room. They comply with the conditions imposed by the "Wheatley" Act for houses which rank for subsidy. 1571 yards of 6in., and 480 yards of 4in. drains and sewers have been laid on the site. 66 gullies have been fixed and 77 connections made. Sections of channelling and kerbing have been carried out. In addition, excavating and levelling for roads, foundations, &c., have been proceeded with.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ERNEST SLATER, A.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector.

